CHANGES IN SOCIAL LIFE, MORALS, AND CUSTOMS, 1894-1944

The revolution in political forms and ideals, the innovations in economics and religion, and the intellectual unrest could not fail to be accompanied by great changes in social organization, morals, and customs. The telephone, the moving picture, the widespread use of electric lights in cities (which made another type of night life possible), the factory, the railway, the automobile, the newspaper, all joined, as in the Occident, to revolutionize society. To be sure, the innovations were chiefly in the ports and here were by no means universal. Even as late as 1944 vast areas were but slightly affected. Yet the changes had begun and were prominent in the centers from which they would be most likely to spread to the rest of the nation.

Many of the old forms of etiquette were passing and were being succeeded by others, often less elaborate and more brusque. Sometimes, in the transition, a lamentable lack was shown of any of those manners which ease the intercourse between individuals and groups, and in which the Chinese have been traditionally skilled.

Old styles of dress were also going. Even before the revolution of 1911, the queue, the form of wearing the hair imposed by the Manchus, had begun to disappear—somewhat furtively. With the revolution came a wholesale cutting of queues—although that appendage persisted and in the 1930?s was even seen in such a modern city as Shanghai. By the 1930Js the coiffure of bobbed hair had been widely adopted among women and girls. Many abandoned Chinese garb for Western costumes—a surrender which always involved a loss in picturesqueness and often in dig-

nity and good taste. While, with the increase of nationalism, especially after 1925, for a time a decided reaction occurred in favor of the traditional garb, Occidental styles were in part retained and later increased again in use. This was particularly true in the uniforms of soldiers and of school children and older students and in the dress of those who had frequent intercourse with the foreigner in business and diplomacy.

The relations between the sexes were shifting. Freedom of social intercourse between boys and girls and men and women, once looked upon with abhorrence after childhood years and tol-